PATIENT SAFETY TOOL BOX TALKS®

SAFE CARE & SUPPORT

STAFF ROLES IN AN OUTBREAK SITUATION

Ward staff/carers/nurses/domestics

- Be constantly vigilant for signs of infection in service user.
- Report any suspicions to CNM2 immediately
- Follow advice form Public Health/Infection Control with regard to barrier nursing service user, cleaning, waste management, laundry management, etc...
- Protect yourself when in close contact with infectious service user through standard precautions. Report to CNM2 if you have symptoms
- Perform strict hand-hygiene (WHO 5 moments)
- Ensure you have read and understood any guidelines/policies that are relevant (infection control). Seek advice from CNM2 if unsure

CNM2

- Report to Assistant Director of any suspected outbreaks without delay.
- Ensure medical attention is received for infectious service user
- Keep staff movement to a minimum to prevent spread to other wards/units
- Send any staff with symptoms home, advise them to seek GP advice
- Liaise with stores department urgent orders of PPE, additional cleaning and decontamination supplies, etc... that may be required
- Management of the outbreak takes precedence over any budgetary restraints, however, ensure only supplies that are required are brought into the isolation room, as once the client is better all supplies from that room will be discarded
- Ensure specimens are taken from infected service user and sent to appropriate lab
- Ensure standard precautions, and any additional precautions are adhered to. If isolation is not possible, cohort service user with similar symptoms in an area of the ward away from other service user
- Restricted visiting must be put in place, inform relatives of reason for this
- Ensure outbreak log is maintained (example below)
- If client is being transferred to another facility ensure the facility and ambulance service are informed of the outbreak situation and what preventative measures they should take

Assistant Director of Nursing/Medical Officer

- Provide support to ward/CNM2
- Inform the following people of suspected or confirm outbreak: General Practitioner or Medical Officer, HSE Regional Public Health Department, HSE Local Environmental Health Service (if suspected food or waterborne illness), Community/Hospital Infection Control Nurse, and Director of Nursing/Hospital
- Ensure relevant policies and procedures are available to staff onward/unit

Staff who experience symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhoea are requested to remain off duty for at least 48 hours after their last symptom.